

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206089

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FSOS TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON

REF: A) STATE 203878; B) BEIRUT 6970 (NOTAL)

1. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY BEIRUT'S COMMENTS. IT APPEARS TO US, CONCERNED THOUGH WE ARE WITH SECURITY, THAT THE SYSTEM THE EMBASSY HAS DEVISED (PARA. 2 BEIRUT REFTEL) FOR PASSING WRITTEN WORD OF THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL IS FEASIBLE SO LONG AS IT IS USED CLOSE TO THE TIME OF ARRIVAL.

2. BEIRUT SHOULD, THEREFORE, PREPARE MESSAGES TO CHRISTIAN CONTACTS FOR DELIVERY BY FSO KHAWAND AS YOU HAVE SUGGESTED IN PARA. TWO OF YOUR REFTEL. YOU SHOULD NOT MENTION NAMES OR PROVIDE ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL TIME. YOU SHOULD SAY, HOWEVER, THAT AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS WILL BE PAYING A BRIEF VISIT TO CHRISTIAN CONTROLLED LEBANON AND THAT THEY WILL BE ARRIVING MOMENTARILY. YOU CAN SAY THEY
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WILL BE COMING FROM WASHINGTON AND THAT THEY HOPE TO CALL

ON AS MANY RANKING OFFICIALS AS POSSIBLE. EXPLAIN THAT SINCE EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CALL ON OFFICERS IN THAT PART OF LEBANON, THESE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ARE BEING SENT TO AUGMENT ON A TEMPORARY BASIS THE ACTIVITIES WHICH THE EMBASSY WOULD NORMALLY CONDUCT.

FYI - BEAR IN MIND WHEN PREPARING THESE MESSAGES BUT DO NOT MENTION THAT, ALTHOUGH THIS VISIT IS PART OF THE EMBASSY'S GENERAL MISSION, THE PARTY WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO SAY TO THE PRINCIPAL RPT PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS INTER ALIA THAT THE SECRETARY HAD INSTRUCTED THEM TO UNDERTAKE THIS TRIP AND HAD MET WITH THEM PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE TO GIVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS. END FYI.

3. AT SAME TIME, KHAWAND SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED, IN TERMS AS CRYPTIC AS IS CONSISTENT WITH RELIABLE COMMUNICATION, TO RESUME HIS DUTIES IN SUPPORT OF MISSION ALONG LINES OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS WITH REGARD TO DJEREJIAN ARRIVAL (I.E., ARRANGE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, BEGIN TO MEET ALL VESSELS ARRIVING FROM CYPRUS). HE SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO BEGIN THESE PROCEDURES UPON RECEIPT OF YOUR MESSAGE.

4. WE ANTICIPATE THAT HOUGHTON AND PARTY WILL EMBARK FROM CYPRUS AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 LOCAL ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 20. BEIRUT MESSAGES TO KHAWAND AND CHRISTIAN CONTACTS SHOULD BE SENT ON FRIDAY AFTER RECEIVING CABLE FROM NICOSIA THAT HOUGHTON AND PARTY PLAN DEPART CYPRUS AS SCHEDULED.

5. FOR NICOSIA: YOU SHOULD, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HOUGHTON AND RECONFIRMING ONWARD BOAT RESERVATIONS, CABLE BEIRUT (INFO DEP'T.) THAT, AS OF 0900 HOURS LOCAL ON FRIDAY AUGUST 20, TRAVEL OF PARTY WILL PROCEED AS PLANNED.

6. RE PARA. 6, REFTTEL B, BEIRUT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT INFORM KARAME PRIOR TO OPENING OF BUSINESS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21. KARAME WOULD THEREFORE BE INFORMED AFTER FSOS HAVE ARRIVED JOUNIEH BUT, LET US HOPE, BEFORE MEDIA ACQUIRED STORY OF ANY REAL SUBSTANCE.

7. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM BEIRUT SOONEST
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TELEPHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS OF FSL JOHN KHAWAND SO THAT PARTY COULD CONTACT HIM AFTER ARRIVAL, IF EFFORTS TO PASS MESSAGE MISCARRY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE206089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WNHOWELL:LF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760317-0844
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760838/aaaabgjb.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 203878, 76 BEIRUT 6970
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF FSOS TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, US
To: BEIRUT NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006